



The following changes have been made to the Street Performers Policy:

- 1. Limited Availability**
- 2. Criminal Background Check Required**
- 3. Proper Dress Attire**
- 4. Hours Of Operation**

ARTIST / CRAFTER / STREET PERFORMER PERMIT - 2013

I. Purpose

The purpose of Artist / Crafter / Street Performer is to provide a public amenity that enhances the vibrancy, vitality and ambience of the city. Savannah seeks to support such performances to the extent that they do not interfere with the reasonable expectations of residents to the enjoyment of peace and quiet in their homes; business owners to access to their businesses; and public safety.

II. Definitions

Artist / Crafter / Street Performer may do balloon twisting, card tricks, caricatures, clowning, comedy, contortions and dance, singing, juggling, magic, mime and a mime variation where the artist performs as a living statue, musical performance, puppeteering, storytelling, recite poetry or prose, street art (sketching and painting, etc.), street theatre or other approved activities.

Street performance or Busking is the practice of performing in public ways, for gratuities or otherwise for free.

Public Ways are designated sidewalks, plazas, parks and squares, with the exception of the sidewalks on either side of River Street.

Permittee means the person who obtains a city permit to perform, craft or display items on city owned property.

Handmade Items means merchandise which is entirely handmade by the labor of the permittee. It shall not include any finished products bought for resale, or perishable or edible merchandise.

III. Permits Required

The Artist, Crafter, and/or Street Performer who desires to use the public ways of Savannah shall first apply to and obtain from the Citizen Office a permit. Such permit shall in each instance state the occasion for which it is issued and the date upon which it will expire and shall be in addition to any other tax or license to which the permittee may be liable. Annual permits expire on December 31.

This permit may be obtained at the Citizen Office located at 2 East Bay Street (first floor of City Hall) **Wednesdays Only 9AM – 12 PM.**

The application shall state the true, lawful and complete name, contact number and address of the permittee. Whenever the address of any permittee is changed, the permittee shall notify the Citizen Office within ten days of such change.

All permit applicants must have a current state-issued identification or driver's license.

IV. Issuance of Permit / Identification Badge

Upon the application approval for a permit by the Citizen Office, the applicant shall be issued a permit / identification badge in accordance with this policy.

Permittees shall be issued a permit / identification badge with their photograph, name, classification, and the signature of the person issuing such badge. The badge shall be conspicuously displayed on the permittee at all times.

Criminal Background Check Required

A criminal background check is required on all applicants applying for a street vendors permit.

Proper dress required

Permittees shall wear proper attire in accordance with the following standard:

Permittee's clothing and shoes shall be neat and in good repair, free of holes, tears, fading, stains, or soil.

Limited availability

Permits for crafters who utilize palm fronds will be limited to fifteen (15) permits per year. The permits will be distributed through a lottery system. Applicants must submit their application and criminal background check to the Citizen Office no later than 10AM on Wednesday, January 23, 2013. Fifteen names will be selected for the 2013 permits. If at any time a permit is revoked a new permit will be issued to a new permittee on a **first- come, first serve** basis.

V. Permitted Areas

Permittees are allowed to be in Rousakis Plaza, Forsyth Park, south of the fountain to Park Avenue, and the designated non-residential squares. Those **non-residential** squares are as follows: **Johnson, Wright, and Reynolds**. Franklin and Ellis Squares are off-limits, as well as the South side of River Street.

Street Vendors may only be located on the east and west sides of a square. The north/south pedestrian walkway shall remain free and clear of any street vendors.

All areas listed are **first-come, first serve**. It should be noted that the City of Savannah may set up prohibitive zones that will be free of permittees at its discretion and may do so at any time.

VI. Maintenance of Location

Permittees shall keep the sidewalk, streets, or other public places adjoining and adjacent to their locations clean and free from any refuse generated from their operation.

VII. Restrictions

No permittee shall use a knife, sword, torch, flame, axe, saw, firearm or other hazardous or potentially hazardous material, equipment, animal or object that can cause serious bodily harm to any person. A permittee will be liable for any damages or injury to the public resulting from his/her entertainment activities, and will hold the City, its officials and employees, harmless against any and all liability, loss, costs, damages, or expenses which may accrue to the City by reason of negligence, default, or misconduct of any permittee.

The City of Savannah strongly recommends that permittees obtain their own personal accident insurance.

Amplification of sound **is not** allowed without authorization from the City Manager. If, however, sound production is necessary because of the nature of the event or instruments then the permittee should be aware of noise sensitive areas / people / times and adjust the sound to suit. If in the opinion of any authorized officer, the noise level is too high then the permittee is expected to comply with the directions of that officer. Amplification may only be used as set out in code sections **9-2034**, and **9-2036**.

No more than **one** Street Performer (excluding Artist and Crafter) may perform in any square at the same time. The Street Performer may perform a maximum of **two** consecutive hours. Breaks are also included within the two hour limit. However, the Street Performer may stay until another permitted Street Performer claims his/her time.

Within Rousakis Plaza or any other permitted areas (other than a square), a Street Performer who produces sound will maintain a distance of 150 feet from any other non-amplified, sound producing Street Performer. Artist / Crafters who draw, paint, or make specific items without producing sound will maintain a 50 foot separation.

Displays shall be no larger than **six feet** by **three feet** on the ground or atop a table. All merchandise displayed will not be higher than one level at any point and none will be displayed beyond the confines of the allotted measurements for any reason.

No stand or display shall be left unattended form more than 15 minutes. If a stand is left unattended for more than 15 minutes, it will be considered abandoned and subject to removal by any authorized officer.

At no time shall a permittee make an oral solicitation or harass the public to pay for performance or merchandise.

Permittees may only receive voluntary donations from the audience.

Anything deemed as interference with vehicular traffic; interference with pedestrian traffic; interference of public amenities; obstructing; disturbing; obscene; dangerous or damaging to public property, the operation shall be removed immediately by such permittee upon the request of any authorized officer.

Hours of Operation

The hours a permit holder is allowed to perform or make crafts are as follows.

Sunday – Wednesday	9AM-9PM
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Thursday – Saturday	9AM-10PM
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VIII. Violations

If a permittee is in violation of the rules contained in this Permit Policy, their permit may be suspended for a period of thirty (30) days for the first offense.

For the second violation, the permit will be suspended for a period of (90) days.

Any further violations will result in permanent revocation.

Any permit holder found to be drinking alcohol or using any other illegal substance will forfeit their permit immediately. The Permit

Holder may re-apply for a permit after 30 days. If the Permit Holder is found to be drinking alcohol or using any other illegal substance again, the Permit will be permanently revoked. Anyone performing or entertaining without a valid permit will be subject to receive a court summons.

Revocation of a permit may be exercised by the Citizen Office Director.

IX. Appeals

If the permittee wishes to file an appeal to the revocation process, the permittee must file a written request within five days with the Citizen Office Director from the date appearing on the violation notice. The hearing shall be held before the Citizen Office Director.

The Citizen Office Director or his/her designee may alter the rules set forth in this policy at their discretion.